

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 05906 01 OF 02 120317Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 111646Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9334

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05906

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF, USNMR SHAPE, CINCEUR
VAIHINGEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: FURTHER GERMAN THOUGHTS ON OPTION III

REF: STATE 81545

1. PM/DCA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FLOWERREE ACCOMPANIED BY
EMBOFF MET ON APRIL 10 WITH FONOFF DEPARTMENT HEAD RUTH
AND FMOD MBFR EXPERT LT. COLONEL SCHILLING GAF FOR
EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF MBFR FOCUSING PRINCIPALLY ON
OPTION III. REFTTEL ARRIVED AFTER MEETING HAD BEEN
CONCLUDED, BUT ARGUMENTS ADVANCED BY U.S. WERE
COMPARABLE TO THOSE CONTAINED IN THE MESSAGE. RUTH
DEMONSTRATED MORE FLEXIBILITY ON THE NUMBER OF TANKS
ISSUE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SEEMED TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT
THE SPECIFIC NUMBER (1700) CANNOT BE DELETED FROM THE
WESTERN NEGOTIATING POSITION SINCE IT IS ALREADY ON THE
TABLE. TO U.S. ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE NEED TO REDUCE THE
PRINCIPAL THREATENING ELEMENT IN EASTERN FORCES, RUTH
COUNTERED THAT A REDUCTION OF TANKS FROM 15,500 TO
13,800 HARDLY REPRESENTED A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN

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PAGE 02 BONN 05906 01 OF 02 120317Z

THE THREAT. AS A COMPROMISE SUGGESTION, RUTH SAID THE

1700 FIGURE COULD BE RETAINED IN THE WESTERN NEGOTIATING POSITION PROVIDED THAT THE RESIDUAL TANK LEVEL WAS MAINTAINED VIA A LIMITATION ON GROUND MANPOWER RATHER THAN BY SPECIFYING A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF TANKS. RUTH, OF COURSE, WAS IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH THE ALLIED OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING THE DISPARITY IN GROUND FORCES AND ACHIEVING A MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT OUTCOME FOR MBFR. IN RUTH'S OPINION SUCH A MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT OUTCOME WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY EASTERN AGREEMENT TO ASYMMETRICAL GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS LEADING TO THE COMMON CEILING.

2. IN PRESSING THE GERMANS FOR THEIR LATEST THINKING ON THE DEFINITION OF A NUCLEAR CAPABLE AIRCRAFT, IT WAS INDICATED THAT THE FMOD NOW APPEARED TO FAVOR A DEFINITION BASED ON NUCLEAR TASKING. THIS IS CONTRARY TO WHAT RUTH SAID PREVIOUSLY; I.E., FRG LEANING TOWARD MODEL DEFINITION. AS SCHILLING POINTED OUT, THE GERMANS HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH THE MODEL APPROACH SINCE THE F-104G STARFIGHTER HAS BOTH CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR ROLES. IN LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, THE CURRENT GERMAN INTENTION IS TO PRODUCE A SINGLE, NUCLEAR CAPABLE MODEL OF THE MRCA. THEREFORE THE EASTERN SIDE WOULD CONSIDER ALL MRCA'S AS NUCLEAR AIRCRAFT. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE BRITISH NEED FOR A NAVAL VERSION OF THE MRCA, SCHILLING RESPONDED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE UK REQUIRED ONLY A SINGLE MODEL. AS A RESULT OF THE CONSTRAINT WHICH A MODEL DEFINITION WOULD IMPOSE ON THE FUTURE STRUCTURE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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PAGE 01 BONN 05906 02 OF 02 120319Z

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 111646Z APR 75

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 05906

EXDIS

OF THE LUFTWAFFE, THE GERMANS ARE WORKING HARD TO COME UP WITH AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE DEFINITION. SCHILLING EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE FMOD DEFINITION WOULD BE FINALIZED BY THE END OF THE WEEK, BUT HE COULD GIVE US NO FIRM ASSURANCES. WE WILL REPORT AS SOON AS THE DEFINITION HAS BEEN AGREED UPON BY FMOD AND THE FONOFF.

3. TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF THE INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING, RUTH REITERATED THE FRG AGREEMENT TO DOING THIS BUT ARGUED AGAIN FOR A SUB-CEILING ON THE GROUND MANPOWER COMPONENT OF THE COMBINED COMMON CEILING. FLOWERREE THEN ASKED ABOUT FRG REACTION TO INCLUDING A 10 TO 15 PERCENT AIR MANPOWER REDUCTION ON THE WESTERN SIDE, ARGUING THAT THIS WOULD NOT TAKE THE FOCUS OFF GROUND MANPOWER REDUCTIONS SINCE THE RATIO OF CUTS WAS SO OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF THE LATTER. FLOWERREE CONTINUED BY CITING THE NEED FOR THE WESTERN SIDE TO MAINTAIN FLEXIBILITY BETWEEN GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER BY FOREGOING A SUB-CEILING ON EITHER ELEMENT. ALTHOUGH RUTH WAS NOT TOTALLY CONVINCED BY THESE ARGUMENTS, A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RECEPTIVITY IN HIS THINKING TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH A POSITION WAS NOTED. RUTH AGREED THAT THE SUBCEILING ISSUE WAS NOT A MAJOR ONE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND FRG. (COMMENT: BASED ON THIS CONVERSATION, IT

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PAGE 02 BONN 05906 02 OF 02 120319Z

APPEARS INCREASINGLY LIKELY THAT THE FRG WILL EVENTUALLY AGREE TO ACCEPT THE U.S. APPROACH END COMMENT)
CASH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN05906
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750127-0954
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750460/aaaaccwp.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 81545
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: FURTHER GERMAN THOUGHTS ON OPTION III
TAGS: PARM, GE, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006